

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 2, before paragraph [0006], insert the following:

Summary of the Invention

Page 2, delete paragraph [0006].

Page 2, amend paragraph [0007] to read as follows:

[0007] The above object is generally achieved by a punching tool device of ~~according to the invention has~~ having at least one die, but as a rule a great number of dies, each of which has an operative portion serving as a tool on its respective lower end, toward the green sheet. This operative portion extends through a stripper opening and is guided by it. The stripper opening is embodied or formed in a stripper element, for instance a stripper bush, and is surrounded by a preferably flat face that serves as a stripper face or holding-down face. ~~In~~ During the return stroke of the dies, the stripper elements prevent the lifting of the green sheet, or the lifting of the green sheet from its support.

Page 2, amend paragraph [0009] to read as follows:

[0008] The stripper opening has a diameter ~~which~~ that is greater than the diameter of the punched opening. The portion of the operative portion of the die that extends through the stripper opening or into it is embodied as graduated. It has a punching portion whose diameter is somewhat less than the diameter of the punched hole. The length of the punching portion is somewhat less than the thickness of the element in which the stripper opening is embodied.

Page 4, before paragraph [0013], insert the following:

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

Page 4, amend paragraphs [0013], [0014], [0015] and [0016] to read as follows:

[0013] Fig. 1[[,]] illustrates a punching device[[,]] according to the invention in a schematic, perspective view[[;]].

[0014] Fig. 2[[,]] shows the punching device of Fig. 1, in a schematic fragmentary sectional view[[;]].

[0015] Fig. 3[[,]] shows the punching device of Fig. 2, in the position of repose, in a fragmentary view on a different scale[[; and]].

[0016] Fig. 4[[,]] shows the punching device of Figs. 2 and 3, in a fragmentary sectional view, after the execution of a punching stroke.

Page 4, before paragraph [0017], insert the following:

#### Detailed Description of Drawings

Page 6, amend paragraphs [0024] and [0025] to read as follows:

[0024] The operative portion 23 of the die 8 is disposed concentrically to the axis 16 and has a substantially smaller diameter than the shaft 15. For example, the diameter of the shaft 15 may be a multiple of the diameter of the operative portion 23, as can clearly be seen in Figs. 3 and 4. The shaft 15 narrows accordingly inside the stripper bush 21, at a point that is at some distance above the upper mouth of the stripper opening 24. This distance is equal to approximately the length of the

operating stroke of the die. Thus the operative portion 23 has a cylindrical portion 25, whose length is somewhat greater than the stroke of the die. The operative portion 23 extends into the stripper opening 24 and has a diameter which is only slightly less than the diameter of the stripper opening 24. This stripper opening 24 serves to guide the operative portion 23 of the die 8 relative to the punched hole 7 embodied in the punching bush 22.

[0025] The operative portion 23 of the die 8 furthermore includes a punching portion 26, whose length is shorter than the length of the stripper opening 24. The punching portion 26 has a reduced diameter compared to the portion 25. In other words, the operative portion 23 is provided with a shoulder, at which the cylindrical portion 25 merges with the likewise cylindrical punching portion 26 that is retained concentrically to the axis 18. The punching portion 26 and the wall of the stripper opening 24 thus form an annular gap; that is, the punching portion extends away from the end of the portion 25, without touching the wall of the stripper opening 24, and thus is not guided in the transverse direction. If the die 8 is in its upper extreme position (top dead center), the free end of the punching portion 26 is retracted into the stripper opening 24. The lower end of the portion 25 is likewise seated in the cylindrical stripper opening 24, so that the die 8 is guided precisely and is centered precisely relative to the punched hole 7. The diameter of the punching portion 26 is moreover less, by an operating clearance (shear gap), than the diameter of the punched hole 7.